

Montgomery County - DHHS
Asian American Health Initiative (AAHI) Steering Committee Meeting
November 15, 2011

<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>	<u>Steering Committee</u>	<u>Present</u>
Sam Mukherjee (Chair)	X	Karen Kar-Yee Ho (Vice Chair)	X
Anis Ahmed		Ji-Young Cho	X
Nerita Estampador	X	Wilbur Friedman	X
Harry Kwon		MunSu (Moses) Kwon	
Meng Lee	X	Sunmin Lee	
Michael Lin	X	Betty Luan (HP Liaison)	
Wendy Shiau	X	Sovan Tun	
<u>AAHI Staff</u>	<u>Present</u>		
Perry Chan	X		
Betty Lam	X		
Jamie Lok Weng	X		
Sanjana Quasem	X		
Atyya Chaudhry	X		

*Sonia Mora (invited guest)

Welcome/Introductions

Sam Mukherjee called the meeting to order at 6:19pm. He mentioned the meeting will be divided in two sessions with a five minute interval between the two sessions.

Approval of July 19, 2011 Minutes

Sam asked that everyone review the July meeting minutes for approval.

Sam placed a motion to record the meeting. A unanimous response passed for the meeting to be recorded.

- Wilbur Friedman referred to page 1, paragraph 1, and mentioned that he did not exactly *instat* Sam Mukherjee and Karen Ho and another word should be used.
 - Sam Mukherjee suggested the word “instated” be changed to “introduced”.
 Wilbur agreed.
- Wilbur referred to page 2, paragraph 2, and said that since this is the first time MK Lee’s name is mentioned, his first and last name should be written.
- Wilbur referred to page 2, paragraph 7, and requested the statement, “conference called the retreat,” be rephrased because it is not clear that it means that Karen Ho called in and was on speaker phone.

- Wilbur referred to page 4, sentence 1, and asked what Karen Ho “seconded” and what would be a better word to use?
 - Karen Ho suggested that “agreed” would best fit.

All members agreed with the changes.

AAHI Program Updates

Hepatitis B

- Perry thanked KCSC & CCACC for working with AAHI on the Hepatitis B project. Perry also thanked Sam Mukherjee for coming out and supporting the event on Nov.12. On Saturday, November 12th, AAHI worked with KCSC to provide Hepatitis B screenings for 84 people. The event took place at the Global Mission Church in Silver Spring. The target population was the Korean community.
- On November 5, AAHI worked with CCACC and other partners in a health fair. Hepatitis B screenings were provided to 135 community members. The target population was the Chinese community.
- Sam stated that he was present at the KCSC event and it was a revealing experience. He thought it was a vibrant event and suggested that in the future the media should be invited.

Empowering Community Health Organizations (E.C.H.O.) Workshop

- On November 9, the second E.C.H.O. workshop took place at the Civic Building in downtown Silver Spring. This was to provide technical assistant training to local partners. There were 56 attendees representing 27 organizations.
- Perry reported the workshop topic was an introduction to grant writing. There was a panel of four speakers. The panel members came from the federal government, the County Council office, a local community foundation, and a local hospital, to give their perspectives and experience on grant writing. They spoke about some of the key tools needed when writing a grant proposal.
- The next workshop will be in May 2012, which will be in conjunction with Asian American Heritage Month and Mental Health Awareness Month. The topic will also be on grant writing. However, this workshop will be more hands-on, and will offer practical skills on how to put a grant proposal together. Based on the evaluations that were distributed after the workshop, many participants were interested in submitting a proposal in the next month or are currently working on a proposal.
- In terms of general outreach in 2011, AAHI has conducted 34 outreach sessions and has provided over 1,000 education encounters. AAHI has also worked with three different Asian newspapers to publish health education columns. One is on Hepatitis B in the Korean newspaper. The others are breast cancer prevention articles in a Chinese and an Asian-Indian newspaper.

- AAHI has attended different professional conferences to provide education and raise awareness about Asian Americans health concerns at a professional level. AAHI presented at APHA, Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Adventist Health Disparities Conference, and GAO (Government Accountability Office).
 - Betty Lam attended the E.C.H.O. Workshop and thought it was a very impressive turnout and the attendance was very diverse. She mentioned she saw many groups represented.
 - Karen Ho asked if those who attended this workshop were the same people who attended that last workshop and was there any overlap?
 - Perry responded by mentioning that AAHI reached out to many of the participants from the first workshop. In addition to doing this, they used a public resource guide from the County Executive Office to reach out to organizations. The workshop was also opened up to individual members of the community who were interested in setting up an organization to serve Asian Americans. For example, there were two representatives in attendance from the University of Maryland; one was from the school of public health and the other from the Asian American study program. Invitations went out to faith-based organizations as well.
 - Sam asked since this was a workshop to assist people with grant writing, which meant money will come in, who will the money go to? Will it go to the organizations, or to AAHI?
 - Perry responded that the goal is to get the community served. One thing that was emphasized in the workshop was collaborating with other organizations. For some grants, it would be easier to have the community-based organizations (CBO's) take the lead and hope they will partner with AAHI. In other cases it may be easier for the department to take the lead.
 - Sam rephrased his question, stating for many years there has been talk about fund raising, and if money comes in, there will be an ethical problem present. Who will hold on to the money? Who becomes responsible for the money?
 - Nerita Estampador replied that if you partner with a university such as the University of Maryland you will be networking with that other organization and a contract would be set up to such as memorandum of understanding on how to share the funds and how they would be used.
 - Sam feels there needs to be an agreement before a potential of money begins to flow in. When dealing with CBO's or one-man organizations, where is the trust factor?
 - Betty noted the premises of this particular workshop is to help these organizations understand where to seek funding and grants. And those who are interested should go after the grant themselves and find other organizations to collaborate with. The purpose is the help small organizations understand what the process is and give a general education on how to seek grants.

- Michael Lin says one way to do this is to identify and invite community organizations to get involved. They may not be sophisticated enough to do this alone.
- Sonia Mora stated that with her particular organization, there may be some collaborations where you'll never see the money flowing, but you'll see the resources. In some occasions, it's not important to get the money directly as long as you see the results of the money.

Liaison Reports

Healthy Montgomery:

- Karen presented that Healthy Montgomery is a community health improvement process that is made up of twenty-five members representing different stake-holders in Montgomery County. This initiative was launched in 2009. The website was launched in February 2011. This website, which is www.healthymontgomery.org, is Montgomery County's data hub. This summer they conducted a needs assessment in which AAHI was asked to participate in helping with the community conversations. The purpose of the needs assessment was to ensure that every group was represented and was able to give input. A report was compiled and release in September 2011. The next cycle of assessment will begin in May 2012.
- Following the report, the Healthy Montgomery steering committee was asked to prioritize each topic by completing a survey. They had to list all the topics in the report and asked each member to evaluate each topic by impact on the population. After doing this, there was a half-day retreat in November. There was an extensive discussion and the committee came up with the following topics of focus:
 - Behavioral health
 - Cancers
 - Cardiovascular disease
 - Diabetes
 - Maternal/Infant Health
 - Obesity
- Sam inquired exactly how the needs assessment was done.
- Karen responded that it was done by in person community conversations. The assessment focused on the entire County, not just the Asian American communities. The purpose of this assessment is to look at the general population.
- Sam thought the communities that are more affected should be taken into account and focused on.
- Betty stated she was at the meeting and the co-chair asked whether the minority healthy initiatives steering committees were aware of the focus areas and asked for their input. George Leventhal specifically said one of the key concerns in the Asian community was Hepatitis B, however in the list of the six focus areas, it is not listed. Betty made a suggestion to look for opportunities to invite additional steering committee members.

Adjourn Time: 7:08pm